

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-50

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AIDAC

E. O.: 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJ: AID PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS FOR TNPD

REF: (A) BANGKOK 9558; (B) BANGKOK 9559

FROM HANNAH TO CHARGE AND REY HILL

1. DURING DISCUSSIONS OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DURING FY 74 HEARINGS, AID WAS STRONGLY QUESTIONED ON PROVISION THROUGH PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS OF MILITARY- TYPE WEAPONS NOT CONSIDERED CUSTOMARY FOR POLICE ORGANIZATIONS CARRYING OUT NORMAL LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES. WHILE I RECOGNIZE THE PARAMILITARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF CERTAIN TNPD ELEMENTS IN COUNTER- INSURGENCY MISSIONS, I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT WE MUST RESTRICT AID WEAPON AND AMMUNITION PROCUREMENT TO THE TNPD HENCEFORWARD TO CUSTOMARY POLICE WEAPONS SUCH AS SIDE ARMS, SHOTGUNS, CARBINES AND NON- TOXIC TEAR GAS.

2. THE NEW RESTRICTION IS BEING ESTABLISHED AS WORLD- WIDE POLICY AND MUST GO INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. IT WILL ALSO APPLY TO MILITARY TYPE WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION UNDER PIO/

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C'S BUT NOT YET PROCURED. THE NEW POLICY WOULD ALSO PRECLUDE PROCUREMENT OF THE ASSAULT RIFLE AMMUNITION REQUESTED IN REFS (A) AND (B).

3. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THAI POLICE UNITS ENGAGED IN COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS MUST HAVE ADEQUATE ARMAMENT AND TRAINING IF THEY ARE TO CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE, TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AND TO UNDERTAKE EFFECTIVE OFFENSIVE ACTIONS. I HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT THE MISSION, IN EXPLAINING OUR POSITION TO THE RTG, CAN ENCOURAGE THEM TO MEET TNPD REQUIREMENTS FOR MILITARY- TYPE WEAPONRY FROM THEIR OWN RESOURCES. AID WILL UNDERTAKE TO RE- PROGRAM FUNDS EQUIVALENT TO THE ABOVE PIO/ C FUNDS, IN THAI PROGRAM . ROGERS

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